

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 01027 031320 Z

43

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7325

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1027

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV

SUBJECT: CLERIDES ON CURRENT STATUS OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS

REF: NICOSIA 855

SUMMARY: CLERIDES SEES BIRGHTER PROSPECT AHEAD FOR INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS PROVIDED GIRVAS IS CONTAINED AND TURKISH SIDE DOES NOT UP PRESENT DEMANDS. MAY POSSIBLY VISIT ATHENS IN ABOUT TEN DAYS TO DISCUSS STATUS OF TALKS. BELIEVES LATEST TURK CYPRIOT PROPOSALS ON LOCAL GOVT OFFER SOME PROSPECT FOR AGREEMENT, THOUGH CERTAIN VITAL AREAS SUCH AS POLICE AND LOCAL FINANCILA ARRANGEMENTS NOT YET CONSIDERED. FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL CONFLICT CONTINUES UNABATED, HOWEVER.

1. IN CONVERSATION MAY 2 GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR GLAFCOS CLERIDES GAVE AMBASSADOR FULL RUNDOWN ON CURRENT STATUS IN INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, WHICH HE SAID SHOULD CONCLUDE GENERAL DISCUSSION OF LOCAL GOVT PROBLEM BY END OF THIS WEEK.

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PAGE 02 NICOSI 01027 031320 Z

2. PICTURE EMERGING FROM CLERIDES DESCRIPTION IS ONE OF RELATIVE ACCOMMODATION ON TURK SIDE CONTRASTING QUITE SHARPLY WITH DENKTASH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STATEMENTS OUTSIDE THE TALKS. PROPOSALS SO FAR PUT ON TABLE BY TURKISH SIDE ARE WITHIN BALL PARK FOR GREEK AND GREEK CYPRIOTS, THOUGH IMPORTANT ISSUES OF POLICE ARRANGEMENTS AND DOMESTIC FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS REMAIN TO BE DISCUSSED AT SESSIONS MAY 3 AND 4.

3. FOLLOWING MAY 4 MEETING TURKISH CONSTITUTIONAL EXPERT ALDIKACTI WILL RETURN TO TURKEY FOR ONE WEEK TO PERFORM HIS ACADEMIC DUTIES. DURING THIS PERIOD CLERIDES AND GREEK CONSTITUTIONAL EXPERT DEKLERIS WILL PREPARE A DOCUMENT FOR CYPRUS GOVT SUMMARIZING THE POSITION ON LOCAL GOVT ISSUES AND SETTING FORTH RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO FUTURE PROCEDURE. ABOUT MAY 11 DEKLERIS WILL TAKE THIS DOCUMENT BACK TO ATHENS FOR GREEK GOVT CONSIDERATION, AND THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT CLERIDES MAY GO TO ATHENS WITH HIM.

4. IN RECENT SESSIONS OF TALKS ON LOCAL GOVT, TURK CYPRIOTS HAVE REFERRED BACK EXPLICITLY TO LOCAL GOVT PROVISIONS OF BRITISH LAW ON CYPRUS PRIOR TO ATTAINMENT OF INDEPENDENCE AS MODEL FOR POSSIBLE LOCAL GOVT ARRANGEMENTS IN AN INTERCOMMUNAL AGREEMENT. THESE PROVISIONS, DENKTASH STATED, WERE IMPLICIT BASIS FOR AUG 17, 1970 PAPERS EXCHANGED ON LOCAL GOVT AND FOR BRIEFING OF GREEK AND TURKISH CONSTITUTIONAL EXPERTS WHICH TOOK PLACE AT BEGINNING OF EXPANDED INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS LAST YEAR.

5. IN RECENT MEETINGS TURK CYPRIOTS SEPARATED OUT NUMBER OF LOCAL GOVT FIELDS IN WHICH CONSTITUTIONAL EXPERTS MIGHT BE ASKED TO WORK OUT SOLUTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN CYPRUS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ENACTED GENERAL STANDARDS ON MATTERS AFFECTING LOCAL GOVT (SAY ON TOURIST DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS) SOME WAY WOULD HAVE TO BE FOUND TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN WHAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED GENERAL INTERESTS OF THE ISLAND AND LOCAL COMMUNITY INTEREST. SIMILARLY, IN REGULATING THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT THERE WOULD HAVE

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 NICOSI 01027 031320 Z

TO BE SOME SAFEGUARDS FOR THE WEAKER TURKISH COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES; CHANGES IN PRESENT COOPERATIVE LEGISLATION SHOULD REQUIRE CONSENT OF BOTH BRANCHES OF PROPOSED NEW CYPRUS LEGISLATURE.

6. THIRD, GOVT BOARDS DEALING WITH MARKETING, DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, ETC. SHOULD NOT EXERCISE THEIR

POWERS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO OVERRIDE FUNCTIONS ENJOYED BY MUNICIPALITIES AND VILLAGES. FOURTH, THERE MUST BE TWO TELEVISION CHANNELS AND SEPARATE RADIO STATIONS; WHILE NEWS BROADCASTS WOULD BE COORDINATED BY A COMMON BOARD, CULTURAL PROGRAMS WOULD BE A COMMUNITY FUNCTION AND EACH COMMUNITY WOULD BE EMPOWERED TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL STATIONS AT WILL. FIFTH, WHILE CENTRAL GOVT WOULD LICENSE PRACTITIONERS OF PROFESSIONS AND OTHER SKILLED OCCUPATIONS, LOCAL AUTHORITIES MUST LICENSE PREMISES -- POINT DESIGNED TO PROTECT COMMUNITIES AGAINST OVERLOADING IN THE PROFESSIONS.

7. SIXTH, RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF DEGREES AWARDED BY GREEK AND TURKISH MAINLAND UNIVERSITIES TO BE GRANTED. SEVENTH, TURKISH COMMUNITY TO HAVE RIGHT TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID FROM TURKEY AND FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. (CLERIDES POSITION IS THAT TURKEY SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO EXTEND FINANCIAL AID PROVIDED THIS WAS DONE THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND CENTRAL BANK AND THAT AMOUNTS WERE NOT SUCH AS TO CAUSE ECONOMIC DISLOCATION THROUGHOUT ISLAND. AS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES, FOREIGN MINISTRY APPROVAL WOULD BE REQUIRED IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS.)

8. NONE OF FOREGOING POINTS APPEARED TO CLERIDES TO PRESENT INSUPERABLE PROBLEMS. NOR DID HE THINK THAT DENKTASH'S INSISTENCE ON RETAINING TURK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY EXECUTIVE POWER IN HIS OWN HANDS WOULD PRESENT UNDUE DIFFICULTIES. CURRENT DISCUSSION, HE SAID, ASSUMED THAT EACH BRANCH OF CYPRUS LEGISLATURE WOULD HAVE "BUREAUS" FOR SUCH SUBJECT AS EDUCATION, LOCAL GOVT, CULTURE, SPORTS AND COOPERATIVES; EACH "BUREAU" WOULD BE HEADED BY A CHIEF, AND DENKTASH WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPOINT THESE CHIEFS.

9. IN SUM, CLERIDES SEES BRIGHTER PROSPECTS AHEAD FOR
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PAGE 04 NICOSI 01027 031320 Z

INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WITH TWO PROVISOS. FIRST, THE GRIVAS MENACE MUST BE SURMOUNTED ONCE AND FOR ALL. SECOND, IT WAS STILL POSSIBLE THAT DENKTASH AND ALDIKACTI MIGHT INSIST ON UNACCEPTABLE PROVISIONS RE POLICE, LOCAL FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS, OR OTHER ASPECTS OF RANGE OF INTERCOMMUNAL PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD CREATE NEW BARRIERS TO PROGRESS AND WHICH STILL COULD CAUSE BREAKDOWN.

10. COMMENT: IT IS SURPRISING AND SOMEWHAT ENCOURAGING THAT PARTIES ARE NOW DISCUSSING NUTS- AND- BOLTS ISSUES OF LOCAL GOVT IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE A SPIRIT OF ACCOMMODATION. APPARENTLY, GREEK SIDE HAS COME A LONG WAY, AND TURKS HAVE AT LEAST SOMEWHAT BEEN RESPONSIVE. HOWEVER, CLERIDES ALSO HAS AN OBVIOUS PERSONAL INTEREST IN ACCENTUATING THE

POSITIVE. IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT ENTIRE DISCUSSION IS
AD REFERENDUM AND THAT IT IS STILL UNLIKELY THAT THE
UNDERLYING, BROAD POLITICAL OBSTACLES TO AN AGREEMENT CAN
BE SURMOUNTED. SEPTTEL WILL REPORT UNSYG SPECIAL REP
OSORIO- TAFALL' S VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT.
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